

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently amended) A security and/or valuable document, including a banknote, comprising a paper support, a film element which has one or more optical security features, and a sealing layer, wherein the support has at least one through-hole, the at least one through-hole being closed by means of the film element which projects beyond the at least one through-hole on all sides,

the sealing layer covers the surface of the film element at least in the region of the at least one through-hole, the sealing layer being applied to the side of the support which is in opposite relationship to the film element the sealing layer being formed from a lacquer layer, the lacquer layer being one that can be ~~which is~~ applied by at least one of printing, scattering, sprinkling and spraying, wherein the sealing layer has an expansion coefficient which approximately corresponds to the expansion coefficient of the film element.

2. (Previously Presented) A security and/or valuable document according to claim 1, wherein the sealing layer has a surface area of at least 80% the surface area of the film element.

3. (Previously presented) A security and/or valuable document according to claim 1, wherein the area of the sealing layer has 100 to 120% of the area of the film element.

4. (Previously presented) A security and/or valuable document according to claim 1, wherein the sealing layer is transparent.

5. (Previously presented) A security and/or valuable document according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the sealing layer and the film element is overprinted with a printing at least in region-wise manner.

6. (Previously presented) A security and/or valuable document according to claim 1, wherein the sealing layer is of a thickness in the range of 2 to 10 μm .

7. (Previously presented) A security and/or valuable document according to claim 6, wherein the sealing layer is applied by printing to the support by means of a screen printing process.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) A security and/or valuable document according to one claim 1, wherein the length expansion coefficient and/or the modulus of elasticity of the film element approximately corresponds to that of the sealing layer.

10. (Previously presented) A security and/or valuable document according to claim 9 wherein the sealing layer has a length expansion coefficient which differs from a length expansion coefficient of the film element by not more than 10%.

11. (Previously presented) A security and/or valuable document according to claim 9, wherein the sealing layer has a modulus of elasticity which differs from the modulus of elasticity of the film element by not more than 10%.

12. (Original) A security and/or valuable document according to claim 10, wherein the difference between length expansion coefficients is not more than 5%.

13. (Original) A security and/or valuable document according to claim 11, wherein the difference between moduli of elasticity is not more than 5%.

14. **(Currently amended)** A security and/or valuable document, comprising:
a paper support including at least one through-hole;
a film element including at least one optical security feature, said film element covering said at least one through-hole and at least a portion of said support surrounding said at least one through-hole, said film element disposed on a first side of said support; and
a sealing layer covering said at least one through-hole, said sealing layer disposed on a second side of said support opposed to said first side, wherein said sealing layer includes a lacquer, the lacquer being one that can be ~~that is~~ applied by at least one of printing, scattering,

sprinkling and spraying, wherein the sealing layer has an expansion coefficient which approximately corresponds to the expansion coefficient of the film element.

15. (Original) A security and/or valuable document according to Claim 14, wherein said security document includes a bank note.

16. (Previously presented) A security and/or valuable document according to Claim 14, wherein said sealing layer is additionally applied by at least one other method including one of printing, pouring, scattering, sprinkling and spraying.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) A security and/or valuable document according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the sealing layer substantially extends from the covered surface of the film element to the side of the support which is in opposite relationship to the film element.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) A security and/or valuable document according to claim 14, wherein at least a portion of the sealing layer substantially extends from a surface of the film element to the side of the support which is in opposite relationship to the film element.

21. (Previously presented) A security and/or valuable document according to claim 1, wherein the sealing layer is directly applied to at least a portion of cut edges forming inner surfaces of the through-hole.

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22. (Previously presented) A security and/or valuable document according to claim 14, wherein the sealing layer is directly applied to at least a portion of cut edges forming inner surfaces of the through-hole.